

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
August 20, 2004
Wyoming State Fair Conference Room, Douglas, WY

Members Present: Alan Todd, President
Helen Jones, Vice President
Arlene Brown
Spencer Ellis
Lee Otto
Meghan Lally
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

Members Absent: Leif Udem
Reed Gardner
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

Youth Leadership Advisory: Ryan Ells
Emily Horton
David Largent

WDA Staff Present: Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Todd at 8:00 a.m. on August 20, 2004.

Approval of Minutes

Jones moved to approve the June 2 minutes and the June 10 and July 9, 2004 conference calls with the correction of noting the attendance of Frank Galey to the June 10 conference call. Seconded by Lally. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Conservation District Appointments

Brown moved that the appointment of Lyle Alexander to fill the position vacated by Tim Schell to the Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District be approved. Seconded by Ellis. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Lally moved that the appointment of Bertram J. Tuckey III to fill the position vacated by May Ann Eastman to the Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District. Seconded by Jones. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Jones moved that the appointment of Amy Icanberry to fill the position vacated by the late Joe Pierson to the Powder River Conservation District be approved. Seconded by Brown. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Financial Update

Julie Cook provided the Board with the 05 budget for the Department with a breakdown of general funds, accounts receivable, federal funds, and Other funds, and that the capital construction funds for State Fair were not included. She indicated we had not processed any

of the July expenditures. She also gave the Board a list of the 05/06 supplemental budget requests. She will provide the same budget report each time the Board meets in the future.

PL566 Program

George Cleek briefed the Board on the responsibilities of the Board in the process of this watershed protection and flood prevention program through USDA-NRCS. USDA provides technical and financial assistance from USDA to local organizations representing the people living in small watersheds. The Board was asked to be the state's single point of contact in the process, which means they have to approve or disapprove the application, prioritize the application and send their actions and recommendations to the NRCS state Conservationist for follow-up and the next step in the process.

Town of Kaycee

Greg Cunningham, representing the conservation district and the Town of Kaycee spoke about the positive things that have come out of the flood and asked the Board to approve their request with high priority. Jones asked about the options they had listed and Mr. Cunningham said the budget will probably be the determining factor in their decision of which option to proceed with. Dr. Galey asked what their formal plan is and Mr. Cleek said there will be a plan developed after the Board's decision. **Jones moved to approve the application and recommend it to the NRCS with a high priority. Seconded by Brown. After discussion, all voted in favor. Motion carried.**

ADMB Update

Hank Uhden briefly explained the 15 projects for FY 05 and their Board anticipates making their selections at their September 30, 2004 meeting.

Grey Wolf Issue

Harriet Hageman explained her law firm had been hired by 27 entities in a lawsuit for the delisting of the wolf. The state filed a lawsuit at the end of April. All of this stems for the US Fish and Wildlife not accepting the Wyoming plan.

Burning and Smoke Issue

Kara Brighton distributed the table of SMP requirements. Her law firm has been retained by five irrigation districts to deal with Chapter 10 of DEQ's rules and regulations. They are working on a smoke exception for agriculture producers, as the current plan does not include one.

Introduction of new personnel

Grant introduced Matt Hoobler as the new federal lands coordinator and Lucy Hansen as the new mediation coordinator. He said they had also hired Dani Sullivan as their new Administrative Assistant and Justin Williams, who would be starting soon. Jim Schwartz introduced Tara Alexander as the new Administrative assistant for the Wyoming Rural Development Council..

Farm Services Agency Update

Lois VanMARK and Nancy Tarver updated the Board on the drought declaration situation in Wyoming, the non Insured Assistance Program, and the Nonfat Dry Milk Program to assist eligible counties. She also discussed the CoCoRahs Program out of Colorado State University which is designed to include volunteers of all ages to record and study complex

patterns of weather in Colorado, Wyoming and Kansas.

4-H and FFA Report

Emily Horton explained the FFA Program and various levels within. She is going to Louisville in October with hopes of being elected as a national officer. She said Jim Schwartz going to be honored in Louisville with the Honorary FFA Degree. 4-H was represented by four of their leaders from various counties and they explained their program and the value of having the Wyoming State Fair to display and compete.

Youth Advisory Reports

Ryan talked about the controversial buyout of Farm Credit Services and how producers will be losing banking opportunities as well as competitive rates. Lee asked if the Board should write a letter regarding this sale. After discussion it was decided to wait until the November meeting for a decision. Ryan also discussed the Platte River Agreement and explained the comments are due to BuRec by September 20. He wanted the Board to write a letter of opinion before the deadline. John explained the complexity of the agreement and he felt they should have Kurt Buholz or Mike Besson come in and explain it to them before they write a letter. He also suggested that Ryan take the lead and contact both men and perhaps have them come to the next meeting. Helen agreed, saying she didn't feel well enough informed on the issue to be able to do that at this time.

David attended the Cattlemen's meeting Wednesday and followed up with the barbeque honoring the teachers of the year by Wyoming Ag in the Classroom and the Ag Citizen of the Year Awards sponsored by the Wyoming Livestock Roundup. He spent time visiting with Dr. Logan and the congressional delegation on a variety of issues.

Emily talked about Premiss ID explaining the Wisconsin program was accepted by the Food and Drug. She also talked some about the grant that has been awarded to the Wyoming Livestock Board.

Board Reports

Alan talked about the letter to the Governor from Leo Tsimbinos. Dan Zwonitzer is going to research whether the Board or the Department have to reply, and if so, what that time-frame would be. He said that he would like to see the tail docking issue finalized. John explained that there are some counties that won't enforce something that isn't a state law, so therefore, the issue will not be final for some time. Jim suggested a letter of support to the State Fair Advisory Board might be something the Board could do.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Todd, President

Date

Attachments:

Attendance Sheet

Conservation District Appointments

PL566 Grant Application